

**IN RE:
RONALD A. KATZ
SERIAL NO: 10/724,330**

FOREIGN PATENT:

Sho 50-98626 JAPAN

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Utility Model Disclosure Sho 50-98626

Utility Model Registration Application

(¥1,500)

January 10, 1974

To: Director General Of The Patent Office, Esq.

1. Title Of The Device.

Information Vending Apparatus

2. Deviser.

Address: Yagumo 2-17-3
Meguro Ku, Tokyo To

Name: Masakazu Arakawa

3. Applicant For Utility Model Registration.

Address: Marunouchi, 2 Chome, 5 Ban, 1 Go
Chiyoda Ku, Tokyo To

Name: Mitsubishi Jukogyo K. K. [Mitsubishi
Heavy Industries Co., Ltd.]

Representative: Kaname Taniguchi

4. Agent.

Address: Mitsubishi Jukogyo K. K.
Marunouchi, 2 Chome, 5 Ban, 1 Go
Chiyoda Ku, Tokyo To

Name: Patent Agent Satoru Sakama (and 1
other)

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5. List Of Attached Documents.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| (1) Specification | 1 document |
| (2) Drawings | 1 document |
| (3) Copy of the Application | 1 document |
| (4) Letter of Attorney | 1 document |

6. Agent Other Than Above.

Agent

Address: Mitsubishi Jukogyo K. K.
Marunouchi, 2 Chome, 5 Ban, 1 Go
Chiyoda Ku, Tokyo To

Name: Patent Agent (6690) Ichiro Tajima

[Stamped impressions from top:]

Cancellation [over stamps]

Payment Received For ¥1,500

Approved

[Seal of Sakama]

Patent Office, January 11, 1974, [rest illegible]

Examined For Form (Oda)

49-006509

[Seal of Tajima]

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Specification

1. Title Of The Device.

Information Vending Apparatus

2. Scope Of Utility Model Registration Claim.

Information vending apparatus, characterized in that it comprises: (a) information recording apparatus, (b) apparatus that upon receiving a coin receipt command and a customer's selection command then selects previously prepared information or information prepared based on the said selection command from the said information recording apparatus, and (c) apparatus that fetches the said selected information.

3. Detailed Explanation Of The Device.

The present device is one that pertains to apparatus for automatically presenting and vending information services by machine.

In recent years there have been various advances in automatic vending machines because of labor shortages and for labor elimination, but information services have always been labor intensive making it extremely difficult to obtain desired information quickly. Places that perform information services have been to a certain degree fixed in place, their available hours have been limited, and users who live in places like suburbs have been highly inconvenienced. The present device

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is one that was made with a view to the above prior deficiencies, it relates to information vending apparatus that comprises: (a) information recording apparatus, (b) apparatus that upon receiving a coin receipt command and a customer's selection command then selects previously prepared information or information prepared based on the said selection command from the said information recording apparatus, and (c) apparatus that fetches the said selected information. The present device makes it possible to have information vending apparatus that offers superior effects such as being able to obtain desired information in a short time merely by depositing the required coins, and when the said apparatus is installed so that it is available on the street in the same manner as prior automatic vending machines, it becomes possible to obtain desired information no matter where one goes.

An example of the present device will be explained next based on Fig. 1 through Fig. 3.

In these figures, (1) is an information vending apparatus main member intended for travellers, (2) is a symbol display panel for the destination names which is attached in the upper portion of front panel 1a of the said main member (1), (3) is a selection button panel installed in the lower portion of the same display panel (2), and on this panel (3) are destination selection buttons (4), date and time selection buttons (5) and

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lodging selection buttons (6). (7) is a coin receiving opening, and this coin receiving opening (7) is connected to coin detection unit (7a) furnished inside the main member. (8) is a receiving opening for information card (9) furnished beneath the said selection button panel (3).

(10) is an operator console housed in vending apparatus main member (1) which is connected to the said several selection buttons (4), (5) and (6), and the said operator console (10) is further connected to computer (11).

(12) is storage unit connected to the said computer (11) that stores the various information, and a selection program for selecting appropriate data by command from the said computer (11) is also installed in this storage unit (12).

(13) is an output typewriter that types prescribed information onto the said information card (9).

To explain the operation of the present example constructed in this manner, the customer first presses the respective selection buttons (4), (5) and (6) for the destination, date and time and lodging desired, thereby inputting the selected commands into computer (11) through operator console (10) which is connected to the said selection buttons (4), (5) and (6). Then the selection program inside information storage unit (12) starts working after receiving the commands of computer (11), the appropriate data is extracted from the said storage unit (12) and is placed in a standby state.

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When the customer inserts the required coins into coin receiving opening (7) after he has finished pressing the selection buttons, a type command is sent to output typewriter (13) by coin control unit (7a), and the information selected from the said storage unit (12) is typed into a card form to make the information card (9) illustrated in Fig. 3.

Then when the type typing work is entirely finished, the said information card (9) is discharged into receiving opening (8) by means of a discharge apparatus that is not illustrated.

The customer then takes the information card, thus completely finishing the vending operation.

Thus the present example is one that seeks to offer superior effects such as making the desired information available in any place, at any time, and within a very short time period.

Another example will now be explained based on Fig. 4 and Fig. 5.

In the figures, (20) is a street guide information vending apparatus main member, (21) is a place name display panel attached in the upper portion of front plate (20a) of this main member (20), and the display numbers (22) of the required areas are respectively attached to the said display panel (21).

(23) is a selection pushbutton panel furnished beneath the said display panel (21), and on this panel (23) are arranged

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several selection buttons (24) for the addresses, *chome* and *banchi* corresponding to the said display numbers (22).

(25) is a telephone handset connected to voice tape control unit (26) that is furnished inside the present main member and that transmits a guide to the appropriate areas by voice.

(27) is a coin receiving opening and the said coin receiving opening (27) is connected to coin detection unit (28) and further to control unit (29).

(30) is the receiving opening for information map (31).

(32) is is an information area housing drum, this housing drum (32) is partitioned into cartridge portions (33) for each of the respective addresses, *chome* and *banchi*, and displays for each are shown on the upper surface of the said housing drum (32).

(34) is a selection step motor furnished in the center of the upper surface of housing drum (32), and this step motor (34) operates after receiving commands from control unit (29) that is connected to the said selection buttons (24).

(35) is a hopper that guides information maps that are dropped by operation of a discharge apparatus not illustrated into receiving opening (30).

To explain the operation of the present example constructed as above, when the customer first presses the selection buttons (24) for the area he wishes, the appropriate

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command is issued to selection step motor (34) by control unit (29) which is connected to the said selection buttons (24) inside the apparatus main member.

Then step motor (34) receives the command and performs the required operation, and housing drum (32) is rotated to the required position.

When the customer inserts coins into coin receiving opening (27) after completing his selection of the desired information, a vending command goes into control unit (29) from coin detection unit (28), control unit (29) operates the discharge apparatus that is not illustrated, and information map (31) is discharged into receiving opening (30) by dropping freely from cartridge portion (33).

Then voice tape control unit (26) operates together with the discharge of information map (31), a voice tape corresponding to the discharged information map (31) plays, and street guide information flows as sounds to handset (25).

The customer hears the sounds and is enabled to obtain street guide information while looking at the discharged information map (31).

Thus the present example is one that seeks to offer superior effects such as making it possible to obtain the desired information near at hand and making that information very reliable because the said information is obtained from two information media, being the map and the voice sounds.

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Although the first thing done in the above examples was to select the desired information, it is of course possible for these apparatuses to be in forms where they begin to operate only after receiving a command indicating that the appropriate coins have been deposited.

Further, the types of information are not to be restricted by what was said above, and a wide range of applications is possible including such as stock exchange information and shopping information.

4. Brief Explanation Of The Drawings.

Fig. 1 is an explanatory diagram showing an example of the device, Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing the internal relational construction of the apparatus shown in Fig. 1, Fig. 3 is an explanatory diagram of an information card sold from the apparatus shown in Fig. 1, Fig. 4 is an explanatory diagram showing another example of the present device, and Fig. 5 is an explanatory diagram showing the internal mechanism of Fig. 4.

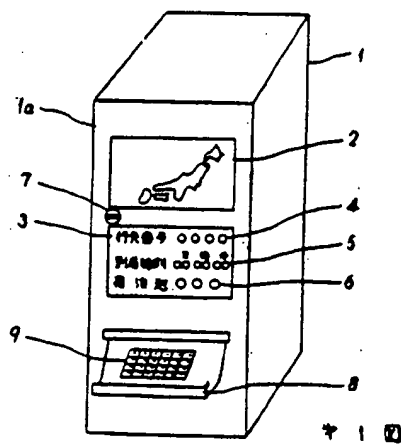
- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 1, 20 | Information vending apparatus main members |
| 4, 5, 6, 24 | Selection buttons |
| 7, 27 | Coin receiving openings |
| 8, 30 | Receiving openings |
| 9 | Information card |
| 31 | Information map |

Patent Agent Satoru Sakama [Seal]

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Fig. 1

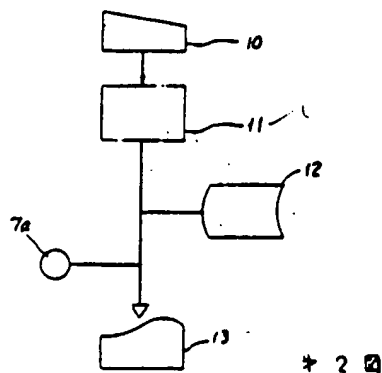


- 3 Destination Number
- 5 Arrival Time: Day Hour Minute
- 6 Lodging Place

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Fig. 2



Satoru Sakama [superimposed over drawing]

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Fig. 3

旅行券 情報サービスカード ¥100					特: 特色 記: 発行 グ: グループ
列車名	出発(地) 駅	到着 駅	79A	乗車区間	
ヒカリ	トワキ337トアイ	シシマラベ	79A		
67	10:30	13:59	○	2300 1900	
29	10:00	13:28	○ ○	2310 1900 2000	乗車券 旅行券 グ: グループ
65	9:30	12:59	○	2310 1900	
乗車区間	乗車券		79A	乗車区間	
コウベ	ヒナフフ	リムワン	○	3-6	A: 乗車券
	ニミ-ポ-ト	リムワン	○	45-6	B: 乗車券
	リムワン	リムワン	○	45-6	C: 乗車券

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Fig. 3 Continued

Travelers Information Service Card ¥100

Train Name	Departure (Place) Station	Arrival Station	Class	Fare
---------------	------------------------------	--------------------	-------	------

Hikari	Tokyo To Nai	Shin Kobe	LEG	
--------	--------------	-----------	-----	--

Lodging Place	Hotel Names	Charge (Thousands)
Uebeshi	Hichifuku Japanese Inn Newport Hotel Oriental Hotel	ABC

[Notes at right side:]

L Limited
E Express
G Green

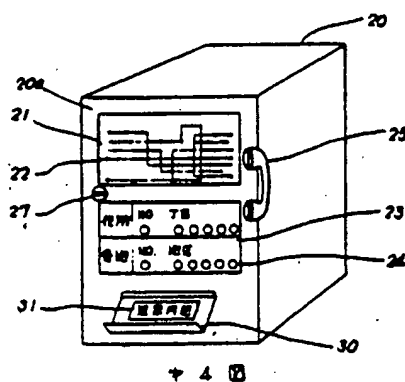
Sleeping car fare
Express fare
Green fare

A Deluxe hotel
B Medium class Japanese inn
C Ordinary Japanese inn

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Fig. 4



[Captions from top:]

Residence	Chome
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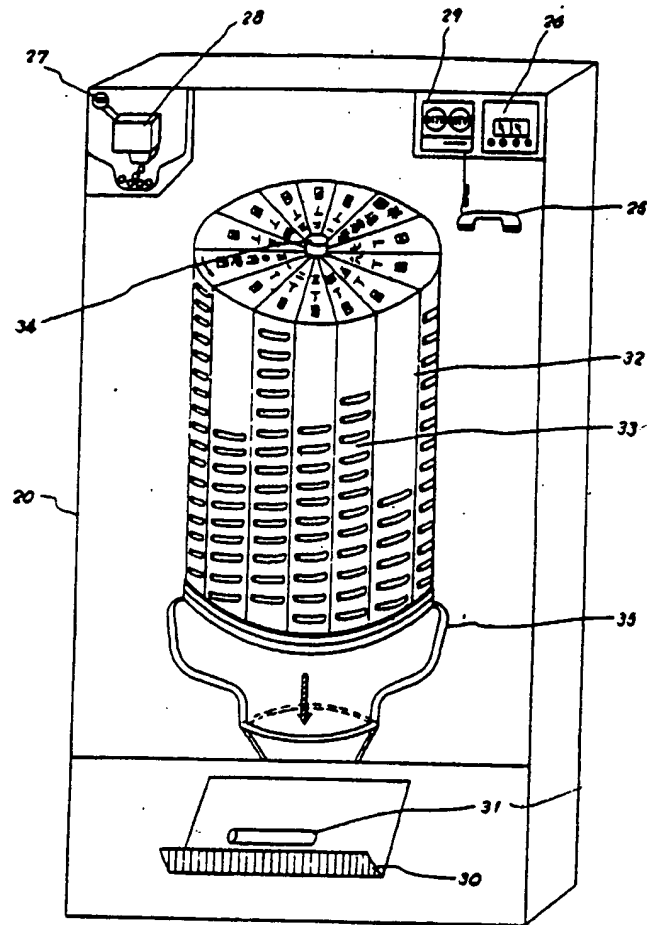
Banchi District

Road Map

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Fig. 5



* 5 *

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Fig. 5 Continued

[Captions starting at arrow:]

Marunouchi Maps

1 Chome

2 Chome

3 Chome

4 Chome

5 Chome

6 Chome

7 Chome

Ari[illegible] Cho Maps

1 Chome

2 Chome

3 Chome

4 Chome

5 Chome

Patent Agent Satoru Sakama

End.

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